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guages an account of this country so truthful, so genial, and so well calculated to remove the erroneous conceptions of ignorance and prejudice which prevail even among otherwise well-informed Europeans.

11. — *Second Annual Report of the Board of State [Massachusetts] Charities ; to which are added the Reports of the Secretary, and the General Agent of the Board.* January, 1866. Boston : Wright and Potter, State Printers. 8vo. pp. cxviii., 427.

THIS volume is a legislative document of far more than common interest and value. The Report of the Board, which occupies one hundred and seventeen pages, is not of merely local importance. It discusses the principles of public charity, the natural laws of crime, the social conditions of the criminal classes, the causes of insanity, and the methods of treatment of criminals and of the insane. The treatment of these questions in the Report is distinguished, not merely by a thorough acquaintance with the various topics, but by a spirit of the highest intelligence and wisest humanity. The clear and vigorous intellect, the wide experience, and the special fitness of its author are no less conspicuous than his large and sympathetic heart. In preparing this Report, Dr. Howe has rendered a new service to the community. It is a fortunate thing for a State when she can call upon such a citizen to serve her.

The Report of the Secretary of the Board, Mr. Sanborn, shows his eminent fitness for the position which he occupies, and his entire fidelity to his charge. It is worthy to be associated with the Report of the Board, and, although chiefly occupied with matters of comparatively local interest, it contains much of general application, and affords very valuable material to the student of the philosophy of crime and poverty, and of the institutions intended to repress the one and relieve the other. The Report of the General Agent is mainly one of detail of local business. It is a sensible and business-like document.

Massachusetts has done no wiser thing of late years than the creation of this Board. Her charitable and penal establishments form one of the most important departments of her institutions, for within them she feeds, clothes, lodges, and controls more than "four thousand persons, towards whom she constantly stands in the relation of parent and guardian." To submit these various establishments to the supervision of a body of intelligent and humane men, who should recommend such changes as they might deem necessary or desirable for their efficient and economical administration, was the intention with which the

Board was created, and this intention has been fully carried out by the members of the Board.

The mere investigation of the actual condition of the prisons, jails, workhouses, almshouses, hospitals, asylums, and other similar establishments, constitutes but a portion of the duties of the Board properly understood. It is requisite for the effective administration of these institutions, that the causes of the existence of such a large proportion of dependent and destructive or dangerous members of society as exist in the community should be thoroughly examined into and considered, in order that the proper means may be adopted for their removal, or at least for the diminution of their effects. It is only after this preliminary study that the establishments can be regulated upon those principles upon which their essential utility depends, and by conformity with which their highest practical efficiency can be secured. It is with this view that the present Report of the Board has been prepared, and it forms one of the most instructive essays upon the general causes of the existence of dependent and criminal classes and the general principles of public charity which has ever been printed.

We regret that our space does not permit us to treat at length of some of the topics embraced in it, or even to set forth in detail the views of its eminent author. But we regret this the less, because the Report itself should be thoroughly studied by all those who desire to promote the progress of our civilization, and to assist in the removal of the evils by which that progress is impeded. We trust that it may be widely distributed. The State would do well to secure its general circulation in every town, by placing a large number of copies for gratuitous distribution in the hands of the town authorities, and by having a copy of it put into every school library.

In the advance of humane opinion in regard to the dependent and vicious classes of society, two principles are daily becoming more evident. First, that the true way to meet the evil resulting from their existence in the community is to remove the causes, or to diminish the efficiency of the causes, of pauperism, insanity, and crime; that the chief effort of society should be thus to lessen the need of relief, reformation, and repression; that the work of society in respect to these classes does not begin or end with almshouses, courts, prisons, and reformatories, but that these are the evidences of its failure to accomplish its more important duties; and that every such establishment indicates the defect of our general social organization, and the want of intelligent humanity in the community. And secondly, in the words of the Report, that "there should be the least possible intervening agency between the people and the dependent classes." "Government should

seek to call forth and increase the charitable feelings of the people, but should not assume their duties of action without strong necessity."

The recent establishment of the American Association for the Promotion of Social Science, at the suggestion of the Board whose Report is before us, and the interest of its first meeting, indicate the existence of a general concern in our community regarding the questions relating to the improvement of society. By the efforts of this and kindred associations, we may once more hope to set our country at the head in the work of social reform and progress. With our special advantages we have special duties. It is not satisfactory to learn, as we do from this Report, that "our charitable and correctional institutions are not superior to those of some other countries, and in several respects they are far inferior."

12. — *The History of the first Discovery and Settlement of Virginia.*

By WILLIAM STITH, A. M. New York: Reprinted for Joseph Sabin. 1865. 8vo.

THE accurate and faithful narrative of the worthy President of the College of William and Mary, first printed in Williamsburg in 1747, has long been esteemed a standard authority in the early history of Virginia. Although his style is inelegant and diffuse, and his minuteness of detail is sometimes unnecessarily extended, his scrupulous adherence to the facts as related by the authors whom he cites, and his unquestioned probity, have established the truthful character of his work.

Stith was indebted to the narratives of Captain John Smith and other early residents in the Colony for the incidents connected with its settlement; and while giving full credit to the author of the "Generall Historie," — "for I take him," says Stith, "to have been a very honest man and a lover of truth," — he does not fail to recognize the prejudices which seem to have influenced and distorted his account of the affairs of the Colony.

A copy of the Records of the Virginia Company for a period of five years (1619–1624) was made by direction of the Earl of Southampton, and purchased after his death by Colonel Byrd, which was used by the author in the preparation of his History. This copy is said to have come into the possession of Congress with the papers of Jefferson, and is supposed to be now in the law library at Washington. Among other documents which came to the hands of Stith were also many state papers, collected originally by Sir John Randolph.

From these and other authentic materials the author has constructed his history of the Colony, from the discovery of the continent to the dis-